

HOUSE RESOLUTION 22

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to commend Reverend Carl E. Officer for his honorable and astute service as Mayor of East St. Louis, Illinois.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Carl E. Officer, Mayor of East St. Louis in Illinois, is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as Mayor of East St. Louis, Reverend Officer has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Mayor Officer's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Mayor Officer is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, first serving his great city as Mayor from 1979 to 1991, Reverend Officer earned much public esteem and popularity, appearing in the magazines *Jet*, *Ebony*, *Time*, and *Newsweek*, as well as on the television shows *Donahue* and *60 Minutes*; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Officer became East St. Louis Mayor again in 2003, committing himself to spending \$6 million of the city's \$10 million casino revenue on police and public safety, as well as another \$2 million of that amount as payment on a \$100 million bond issue for new infrastructure work citywide; and

WHEREAS, Carl Officer not only serves as Mayor of East St. Louis, but also proudly wears the titles of Ordained Minister, Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer, and most impressively, Husband and Father; and

WHEREAS, the theme of Reverend Mayor Officer's second Oath Ceremony was "A Time for Hope, Healing, and Rebuilding," he has since most adeptly seen to it that this theme prove true for his beloved city, using his knowledge, experience, and diplomatic skills to make East St. Louis, Illinois, a better place to live; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby commend Reverend Mayor Carl E. Officer for his honorable and astute service to the good people of East St. Louis, Illinois, as their Mayor, salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and wish this remarkable gentleman all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.